

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
ASHEVILLE DIVISION**

CIVIL CASE NO. 1:16-cv-159-DSC

Ricky L. Dougher,)
 Plaintiff,)
))
 v.)
))
Nancy A. Berryhill¹)
 Acting Commissioner of Social Security,)
 Defendant.)

ORDER

THIS MATTER IS BEFORE THE COURT on the *Consent Motion for Entry of Order Accepting the Motion for Attorney's Fees Under EAJA* filed on June 14, 2017. The parties agree in this case that Plaintiff should be awarded an attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), in the amount of \$5,000.00.

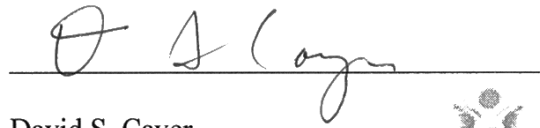
IT IS ORDERED that the *Consent Motion for Attorney's Fees Under EAJA* is **GRANTED**, to the extent that the Court will award attorney fees in the amount of \$5,000.00, and that pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (U.S. 2010), 130 S.Ct. 2521 (2010), the fee award will first be subject to offset of any debt Plaintiff may owe to the United States. The Commissioner will determine whether Plaintiff owes a debt to the United States. If so, the debt will be satisfied first, and if any funds remain, they will be made payable to Plaintiff and mailed to Plaintiff's counsel. If the United States Department of the Treasury reports to the Commissioner that the Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, the Government will exercise its discretion and honor an assignment of EAJA fees, and pay the awarded fees directly to Plaintiff's counsel. No additional petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) shall be filed.

EAJA allows that fees and expenses are to be paid by the Defendant agency; thus, the attorney's fees awarded to Plaintiff shall be paid by the Social Security Administration.

¹ Nancy A. Berryhill is now the Acting Commissioner of Social Security. Pursuant to Rule 25(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Nancy A. Berryhill is substituted for Carolyn W. Colvin as the Defendant herein. No further action is necessary pursuant to section 205(g) of the social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

SO ORDERED.

Signed: June 15, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D S Cayer", is written over a horizontal line.

David S. Cayer
United States Magistrate Judge

